

**ERIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
VECTOR AND PEST CONTROL PROGRAM**

**462 Grider Street Room BB-122**

**Buffalo, NY 14215**

**716-898-3324**

**Tick Identification Service**

**Requisition Form:**

The proper form for requesting tick Identification is the:

- Erie County Health Department Tick Identification Request Form revised 11/01.

**Specimen Collection Information:**

In removing and submitting ticks for identification, use the following procedure:

- Carefully remove ticks by grasping them as close to the skin as possible using fine tweezers and pull gently but firmly until they let go.
- Do not squeeze ticks or handle them with your bare hands.
- Place the whole tick in a tightly sealed container, pack carefully in a crush-proof package and send to the above address.

**Specimen Transport Information:**

Specimens for Tick Identification in a tightly sealed container, packed in a crush-proof package can be transported to the Vector Lab by:

- US Mail to Address listed above and on the Requisition Form.  
Specimens are picked up from the mailroom at ECMC every business day.
- Hand-deliver directly to lab.  
Vector & Pest Control Program  
462 Grider Street – Room BB122  
Buffalo, NY 14215  
(716) 898-3324  
(716) 898-6163 fax
- If there is no one at the Vector Lab to accept the specimen, deliver to the Erie County Public Health Lab for storage/holding.  
Erie County Public Health Laboratory  
Clinical Center Building AA  
462 Grider Street  
Buffalo, NY 14215  
(716) 898-6105  
(716) 898-6110 fax

The Public Health Lab should call the Vector Lab to notify that a specimen is being held for Tick Id. Voicemail is acceptable. The vector lab will pick up the specimen either by the next business day.

- Hand-deliver to one of the four district offices of the Erie County Health Department.

Buffalo District Office 499 Franklin Street Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 881-4052 (716) 881-3740 fax	Hamburg District Office 40 South Long Street Hamburg, NY 14075 (716) 649-4225 (716) 649-4223 fax
Lancaster District Office 85 Manitou Lancaster, NY 14086 (716) 683-6487 (716) 683-5517 fax	Tonawanda District Office 250 Cortland Avenue Tonawanda, NY 14223 (716) 874-1070 (716) 874-1076 fax

The Erie County Health Department District Offices should call the Vector Lab to notify that a specimen is being held for Tick Id. Voicemail is acceptable. Place the specimen in a “ziploc” bag, and a brown paper bag labeled “Vector Lab.” The interoffice courier can then deliver the specimen directly to the Vector Lab.

#### **Specimen Storage/Holding Information:**

- Specimens for Tick Identification must in a tightly sealed container. This container may contain only the tick specimen with no media or it may contain alcohol as a transport media.
- The specimen container must be labeled with the victim/patients name.
- The specimen can be held at room temperature or under refrigeration whichever is more convenient.